

## MINUTES

Kentucky Oral History Commission  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives  
December 7, 1992

Attending:

Commission Members - Lynwood Montell, chair  
Judi Jennings  
Jim Klotter  
Jim Nelson

Advisors - Terry Birdwhistell  
Bill Ellis  
Lew Wallace

Staff - Kim Lady Smith, director  
Kathleen Bond  
Enoch Harned

The meeting was opened by Chairman Lynwood Montell at 9:05 am. It was noted that while a quorum of members was not present, business would be conducted and all decisions requiring a vote made subject to the approval of the full Commission through consideration of the minutes.

At this time Chairman Montell called for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Kim Lady Smith noted that the section referring to a grant award to the Kentucky Writers Transcription project reported the grant to be in the amount of \$2,330. The correct amount was \$2,550. Jim Klotter moved to amend the minutes for the May 9, 1992 meeting to reflect the correct grant award and that they be approved as amended. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

Members then turned to the Director's Report prepared by Kim Lady Smith. Smith noted that \$1,218 of the general fund allotment for the previous fiscal year lapsed to the general fund. Also noted was the 15% budget cut for this fiscal year reflected in the grant allocation of \$67,600. Smith explained that a 2% budget reduction plan would further impact the grant allocation by reducing it to \$64,400.

Next, Smith explained that the reorganization of the Commission within the Kentucky Historical Society would become effective December 16, 1992. Jim Klotter, director of the Kentucky Historical Society, expressed his commitment to the programs of the Oral History Commission and urged members to keep him informed of their concerns. Their continued involvement in all areas of oral history activities was encouraged.

At this time, Smith explained that the Kentucky Folklife Program had been brought into the Kentucky Historical Society as a program in the Oral History and Educational Outreach Division. As division manager, she would be responsible for supervising the

program. Funding for the folklife program was provided by the Kentucky Arts Council through this biennium. Some limited operating support would be covered through the Commission's operating budget. General fund support for the program would be requested in the 1994-96 budget request.

Members then reviewed the status of Commission sponsored grants. Smith reported that 21 project and transcription applications had been received and 19 were approved (14 project and 5 transcription) in fiscal year 1992. She then called members attention to those sections of the grant status report which identified projects completed, projects current, and projects delinquent. Smith noted that a significant number of projects had not submitted reports indicating completion and that she was in the process of contacting each one. Members discussed the issue of accountability and concurred that our record of projects successfully completed was quite good, but some tightening of accountability requirements would be helpful. Smith noted that revisions in the grant award letter, application forms, and guidelines would be submitted for review at the spring Commission meeting.

Smith then reported on the status of the family farm and main street projects. The family farm projects were continuing according to schedule and Terry Birdwhistell spoke of the numerous related projects that have been initiated as a consequence. Smith informed members that the main street committee had met in August and selected four communities in which to implement the project: Pikeville, Campbellsville, Henderson and Dawson Springs. She explained that we were working the Main Street program at the Kentucky Heritage Council and had contacted Bill Ellis, Eastern Kentucky University, and Carol Crowe-Carrico, Western Kentucky University, about their interest in undertaking this project.

At this time, members noted that Debbie McGuffey, Lil Press, and Judi Jennings had been appointed by Governor Jones to four year terms on the Commission in July of 1992. Judi was appointed in the vacancy left by John Kleber who did not want to be considered for reappointment. Smith then informed members that John Ed Pearce had submitted his resignation from the Commission in September. She had not turned the resignation in to the Governor's Office and asked for consideration of a recommended replacement. Citing the need for African-American and female representation, Smith proposed Emily Parker of Lexington for appointment. Members agreed that Parker's credentials as an oral historian and involvement in community activities made her an excellent choice and endorsed her recommendation.

Smith then proposed the creation of a John Ed Pearce Oral History Award as a means of acknowledging John Ed's contribution to oral history in Kentucky. After discussion, Chairman Montell appointed Jim Klotter as chair and Debbie McGuffey, Sam Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Clark to a committee to determine the intent, criteria and funding of such an award. Their proposal would be considered at the spring Commission meeting.

Members then discussed the 1992 Oral History Association meeting held in Cleveland in October. The participation of a large number of Kentuckians was noted as was Terry Birdwhistell's contribution as president. Birdwhistell acknowledged the Commission's role in the meeting and its national reputation. He urged members to support the work of Kim Lady Smith as she begins her term as vice-president/president-elect of the Oral History Association.

At this time, members considered the report of the nominating committee. Jim Klotter presented that slate recommended by the committee - Lynwood Montell, chair and Judi Jennings, vice-chair. Jim Klotter moved for approval of the committee's report and election of recommended officers. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

Next members considered grant period extension requests.

#### Louisville Blues Legacy Project

The Kyana Blues Society requested a one year extension of their grant period to December 31, 1993. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the extension request. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

#### Kentucky Commission on Women

Marsha Weinstein and the Kentucky Commission on Women requested an extension of their grant period to March 1, 1993. Smith explained that since receiving the request she had talked with Weinstein and learned that all the interviews had been completed, but the records of expenditures were confusing. Items to have been covered by the grant were paid for out of general funds and the grant funds remained in the agency receipt account. Weinstein had been told that she cannot reimburse the general fund with agency receipts. Therefore, Smith was recommending that a six month extension be granted during which time she would work with Weinstein to develop a project documenting Kentucky female elected officials/females in government. That project would utilize the original grant funds and would be presented to the Commission at the spring meeting. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the extension to June 30, 1993 for the purposes described by Smith. Jim Klotter seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### Kentucky Writer's Project

Linda Beattie requested a six month extension to June 30, 1993 to complete her interviews with Kentucky writers. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the request. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### War on Poverty

Ron Eller, University of Kentucky Appalachian Center, requested a one year extension to December 31, 1993 in order to complete the interviews for the War on Poverty project. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the request. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

At this time members considered grant applications.

#### Kentucky's Early Women Lawyers

Kathleen Bean, University of Louisville, requested \$2,866 to conduct interviews with 20 female lawyers who attended law school or practiced law in Kentucky before 1960. University of Louisville Law School records are being used to identify the interviewees. Judi Jennings explained the review committee's recommendation that the application be approved in the amount of \$2,826 (cost of cassettes deleted, to be provided by the Commission) and suggestion that the title be changed to reflect the reliance on University of Louisville alumni. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the application as recommended by the review committee. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### Touching the Past: Our Neighborhood, Ourselves

Betsy Adler and the Living Arts and Science Center in Lexington requested \$4,670 to collect 50 audio and 20 video interviews with residents of the larger Kinkeadtown neighborhood on various issues related to neighborhood identity. The neighborhood is described as inner city, mixed income, and predominately African-American. Judi Jennings explained the review committee's decision to not make a recommendation but to request the submission of a revised application which addressed the issues of African-American representation on an advisory board and criteria for selecting interviewees. A revised application was submitted and distributed to members approximately one week ago. Jennings stated that the application did adequately address the concerns of the committee and moved for approval of the request in the amount of \$4,670. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### Edgar Tolson: Allure, Debate and Legacy of Kentucky's Contemporary Folk Art

Julie Ardery requested \$3,936.48 to conduct 50 interviews which would examine "the phenomenon of contemporary folk art through the life and career of wood carver Edgar Tolson." Judi Jennings explained the review committee's recommendation that the application be approved. During discussion of the project, members expressed concern over the proposed limitation on public access. Acknowledging that such access restrictions are common for interviews conducted by independent scholars and actually encourage their placement within an archives, members felt a specific time limit would be more appropriate for a publicly funded project. Judi Jennings moved to approve the application with the condition that the interviews be open to public access no later than

five years from the scheduled completion date. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### Appalachian Appropriate Technology Oral History

Dr. Albert Fritsch and the organization Appalachia--Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) requested \$2,432 to conduct interviews with eleven "appropriate technologists," older people who in areas such as food production, building, and water conservation, have developed environmentally safe, low cost techniques. Judi Jennings explained that as the narrowly focused subject could not be viewed as a high priority during a time of budget constraints and since neither project consultant has submitted letters of support, the review committee recommended that action on the application be deferred until the spring grant period. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to defer action on the application as recommended by the review committee. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### Kentucky Historic Farms

Tom Arcury, director of the family farm oral history project at the University of Kentucky, requested \$4,960 to collect fifty interviews with farm families selected from the Bicentennial Heritage Farm register of over 600 farms. Judi Jennings explained that the review committee recommended funding of the application with the stipulation that farms in eastern Kentucky which met the criteria be included regardless of whether they were officially designated heritage farms. During the discussion, members determined that the stipulation should not be limited to eastern Kentucky, but include any substantial geographic area not represented on the register. They also noted that the application referred to indefinite time access restrictions that might be placed on the interviews. Judi Jennings then moved to approve the application in the amount of \$4,960 with the condition that farms in geographic areas not substantially represented on the Heritage Farm register be included and that public access to the interviews be allowed five years after the completion date of the project. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

#### Kentucky Heritage Farm Transcribing Project

Jeff Suchanek and the University of Kentucky Oral History Program requested \$3,570 to transcribe 70 hours from 30 interviews collected in Heritage Farm component of the family farm project. Judi Jennings explained that as the review committee had recommended a grant award to collect additional Heritage Farm interviews, the recommendation was that half of the request, \$1,785, be awarded at this time. The purpose of the recommendation was to allow for the collection and evaluation of additional interviews that could then be included in a second transcription grant in the spring. Judi Jennings moved to approve the application as recommended by the review committee. Jim Klotter seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

## Kentucky Writers Oral History Project Transcription

Linda Beattie and the University of Kentucky Oral History Program requested \$2,550 to transcribe fifty hours from 18 interviews with Kentucky writers. Judi Jennings explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application, but noted that it was hoped this would be the last request made for this particular project. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the application as recommended by the review committee. Jim Klotter seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

## Veterans of World War II Transcribing Project

The University of Kentucky requested \$1,734 to transcribe 34 hours from 13 interviews with Veterans of World War II. Judi Jennings explained that the review committee did not consider this proposal a high priority and noted that a transcription request for this project had been funded in 1991. The review committee, therefore, recommended that action on the application be deferred until the spring Commission meeting. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to defer action on the application as recommended by the review committee. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

## An Oral Biography of Pee Wee King, Transcription

Wade Hall requested \$1,950 to transcribe 30 hours of interviews with country music performer and composer Pee Wee King. Judi Jennings explained the review committee's recommendation that application be approved. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the application. Jim Klotter seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

At this time, Chairman Montell appointed the following to the review committee for the coming year: Jim Nelson, chair, Doug Stern, Richard Brown, Lil Press, Terry Birdwhistell, and Lew Wallace.

Chairman Montell then appointed Helen Howard Hughes as chair of the nominating committee for next year. Also appointed to the committee were Jim Gifford and Debbie McGuffey.

Members next considered advisory board appointments. Smith explained her recommendation that Terry Birdwhistell, Carol Crowe-Carrico, and John Klee be reappointed for two year terms. She further recommended that John Kleber be appointed instead of reappointing Bob Gates who was now an employee of the Oral History and Educational Outreach Division. Also, Smith suggested that Sharon Whitehead of Somerset Community College be appointed to fill the vacancy left by Judi Jennings who was now a member of the Commission. After discussion, Jim Klotter moved to approve the appointments to the advisory board as recommended by Smith. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the Commission.

At this time Lynwood Montell presented a preliminary proposal from a student at Western Kentucky University to conduct interviews with people who attended or were associated with black one room schools in three counties in south central Kentucky. He explained that the student approached him only a week ago, but immediate consideration was necessary as the student would be graduating in the spring and would need to conduct interviews over the next five or six months. Montell estimated the cost for conducting fifty interviews to be no greater than \$3,500. Members agreed that this was an important topic and supported the consideration of the request on an emergency basis. However, it was recommended that the student complete a project grant application as soon as possible and that it be considered in accordance with Commission policies for emergency applications.

Members also discussed the possibility of developing an on-going project to document the history and implementation of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). It was agreed that the committee established to consider an on-going project on the Kentucky legislature would add consideration of a KERA project to its agenda.

Chairman Montell adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.